AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 31 (Canceled).

32 (Currently Amended). A motor-driven tool for applying an implantation force to a helical fastener sized and configured for penetration ~~implantation~~ in tissue in response to the [[an]] implantation force applied according to prescribed conditions, the motor-driven tool comprising

a tool body,

a drive motor carried in the tool body,

a driven member coupled to the drive motor, the driven member being carried by the tool body and being operable to apply the implantation force during operation of the drive motor,

a carrier on the driven member to couple the fastener to the driven member to transfer the implantation force from the driven member to the fastener, and

a motor control unit carried in the tool body and being coupled to the drive motor, the motor control unit being conditioned to operate the drive motor in phases including an initial phase operating the carrier to transfer the implantation force to the fastener under conditions that [[than]] are short of the prescribed conditions so that only partial implantation of the fastener occurs and the fastener remains coupled to the carrier, a lull phase commencing automatically at the end of the initial phase interrupting operation of the carrier, and a final phase operating the carrier under conditions that supplement the conditions of the initial phase to achieve the prescribed conditions to release the fastener from the carrier and implant the fastener in tissue, the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase.

33 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed final phase command is based, at least in part, upon input from an operator.

34 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed final phase command is based, at least in part, upon input reflecting a sensed operating condition.

35 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the driven member is also operable to apply a removal force to withdraw the fastener from tissue, and

wherein the motor control unit includes a removal phase operating the carrier to transfer the removal force to the fastener, the motor control unit requiring, after automatically entering the lull phase, a prescribed removal phase command different than the prescribed final phase command to advance from the lull phase to the removal phase.

36 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 35

wherein the carrier is rotated in one direction to transfer the implantation force and rotated in an opposite direction to transfer the removal force.

37 (Withdrawn) (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

further including an element tethering the fastener to the tool body, the element including a frangible portion.

38 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the tool body includes a tube that carries the driven member and the carrier.

39 (Previously Presented). A motor-driven tool according to claim 32

wherein the driven member is rotated to apply the implantation force.

Claims 40 to 43 (Canceled)

44 (Previously Presented). A method for implanting a fastener in tissue comprising the steps of

providing a motor-driven tool as defined in claim 32,

coupling a fastener to the carrier,

accessing a tissue region,

operating the motor control unit in the initial phase to partially implant the fastener in the tissue region,

deciding during the lull phase to commence the final phase, and

entering the prescribed final phase command to advance the motor control unit from the lull phase to the final phase, thereby completing the implantation of the fastener in the tissue region.

Claims 45 to 48 (Cancelled)